

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 1 was amended to move the retainer opposite the spindle.

Figure 2 was amended to move the retainer opposite the spindle as in Figure 1.

Figure 4 was amended to add an arrow to reference numeral 42.

Figure 6 was amended to include a section line to show where Figure 7 was taken.

Figures 8 and 9 were amended to change reference numeral 52 to 53.

Figure 10 was amended to re-direct leader lines from reference numerals 56 and 44 to more specifically point to items already illustrated in Figure 10.

Figure 11 was amended to schematically illustrate where the door and levers L1 and L2 would be located.

Figure 12 was amended to include inadvertently omitted reference numerals.

Figure 13 was amended to flip Figure 13 such that Figure 13 provides the same viewing direction as in Figure 7 and Figure 10.

Applicant submits for approval 7 sheets of drawings. In light of the drawing amendments, Figure 9 (previously located on sheet 4) is now located on sheet 5 with Figure 10. Figure 11 (previously located on sheet 5) is now located on Sheet 6. Figures 12 and 13 (previously located on Sheet 6) are located on Sheet 7. The attached drawings replace the previously filed drawings. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 17, and 20 have been amended. New claims 22-24 are presented. Accordingly, claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 3, 10, 14, and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph. Applicant has amended the specification and Figures 11-13 to address the Examiner's concerns. No new matter has been added and any person skilled in the art of locks is readily enabled to make and use the invention following the teaching within the specification of the presented invention. As to claims 3, 14 and 20, Applicant has amended each claim to further clarify the geometrical relationship.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,644,076 to *Huang*. Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schlage* '025 in view of *Huang*. *Huang* claims a filing date of May 2, 2002. Applicant submits herewith a declaration pursuant to 37 CFR §1.131 evidencing that the claimed invention was conceived prior to May 2, 2002, which is the effective 102(e) date for *Huang*. Accordingly, the *Huang* reference does not qualify as prior art and the claims are properly allowable.

Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Schlage* '025. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. *Schlage* '025 refers to item 13 and the spindle bar. The spindle bar 13 includes a head 9 *which fits into* a recess 9a formed in the outer end of the plug extension. [See *Schlage* '025; col. 2, lines 3-13.] The spindle bar 13 and head 9 fails to disclose or suggest a spindle comprising a female end with opposed cams as recited in claim 17. Furthermore, the Examiner refers to the cap 4 as having opposed cams 6, however cap 4 is not part of the spindle bar 13.

While it is well settled that terms in a claim are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation in proceedings before the PTO, this interpretation must be consistent with the specification, with the claim language being read in light of the specification as it would be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 833, 15 USPQ2d 1566,

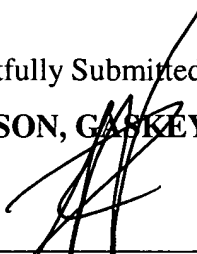
1567 (Fed Cir. 1990); *In re Sneed*, 710 f.2d 1544, 1548, 218 USPQ 385, 388 (Fed Cir. 1983). Here, the Examiner is suggesting an interpretation that specifically contradicts and is not consistent with the specification of *Schlage* '025. The cap 4 is not part of the spindle bar 13. All claims are allowable.

New claims 22-24 recite further features of the present invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are thus properly allowable.

Please charge \$150 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, for 3 claims in excess of 20. If any additional fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



DAVID L. WISZ
Registration No. 46,350
Attorneys for Applicant
400 West Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: October 31, 2005

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